

NY

# **Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/031,637

Examiner

Shumaya B. Ali

Applicant(s)

DAVIES ET AL.

Art Unit

3771

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/18/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9-25,27-33 and 35-41.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## **Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application   |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>5/18/07</u> |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                                       |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                      |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

***Election/Restrictions***

Claims 2-7,9-15,29-31, and 35-41 were directed to a non-elected species (see election/restriction mailed on 8/25/06). Claims 1 and 32 contains allowable subject matter and are independent claims that claims 2-7,9-15,29-31, and 35-41 depend from. Thus, previously withdrawn claims are considered allowable for depending from the allowable independent claims.

Because all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, **the restriction requirement as set forth in the Office action mailed on 8/25/06 is hereby withdrawn.** In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the rejoined inventions, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

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Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Attorney James P. Rick on 18 May 2007.**

The application has been amended as follows:

**In claim 1**, line 1, "an elongate strip" has been changed to --a single elongate strip--.

**In claim 16**, lines 1 and 2, "A carrier in multi-unit form carrier, comprising a plurality of carriers according to claim 1 arranged in series." has been changed to --A carrier according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of carriers, wherein the carrier is multi-unit--.

**In claim 32**, line 2, "a first portion and second portion of an elongate strip" has been changed to --a first portion defining a first end and a second portion defining a second end of a single elongate strip--.

**In claim 32**, line 7, after "forming a further join" insert --; providing said first and second ends with a pair of pull release tabs; and providing said tabs with at least one perforation--.

**Cancel claim 34.**

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

Claims 1-7,9-25,27-33,and 35-41 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: **as to claim 1**, the prior of record does not teach nor render obvious the overall claimed combination of a carrier comprising a single elongate strip having a first portion defining a first end and a second portion defining a second end, wherein the first portion and second portion are different areas of a single ribbon which makes up the elongate strip, wherein said first and second ends of the elongate strip

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form a pair of pull release tabs, each of said release tabs having at least one perforation formed therein; and **as to claim 32**, the prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious the overall claimed combination of a method of making a carrier comprising forming a fold between a first portion defining a first end and second portion defining a second end of a single elongate strip such that said first portion contacts said second portion, forming a join between said first portion and said second portion, and providing said first and second ends with a pair of pull release tabs, and providing each tabs with at least one perforation. Therefore, the invention defined in claims 1 and 32 is considered novel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

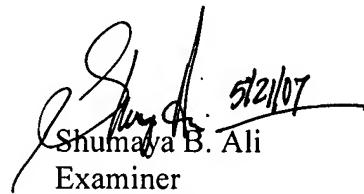
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shumaya B. Ali whose telephone number is 571-272-6088. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W-F 8:30am-5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine Yu can be reached on 571-272-4835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Shumaya B. Ali  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3771

  
JUSTINE R. YU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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5/21/07